

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SY-04 OPR-01 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 ST-01 USIA-06 /038 W

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P 171017Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1034

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZANZIBAR 0020

E.O. 11652: XGDS 4

TAGS: APER TZ (BHALLOO, ASGHER M.)

SUBJECT: DETAINED CONSULATE EMPLOYEE

NAIROBI FOR RSO

REF: JAKARTA 0476

1. CONSULATE GENERAL SERVICES ASSISTANT, ASGHER M. BHALLOO, FAILED TO APPEAR FOR WORK AT CONSULATE MORNING OF JANUARY 16. GIVEN BHALLOO'S EXTREMELY RELIABLE AND CONSCIENTIOUS NATURE, CONSULATE INITIATED INQUIRIES. DAY-LONG EFFORT TO LOCATE HIM WAS UNSUCCESSFUL AND HIS BROTHER, WHO CURRENTLY VISITING FROM DAR, WAS UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN ANY INFORMATION AS TO HIS WHEREABOUTS. ON BASIS OF FOREGOING, CONSUL TOOK MATTER UP WITH MOHAMED YUSUF, ACTING PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 16, WHO SAID DEPARTMENT WOULD ASSIST CONSULATE IN OBTAINING INFORMATION BUT ALSO CONCURRED IN MY SUGGESTION THAT CONSULATE MAKE OWN INQUIRIES AS APPROPRIATE. CONSUL CONFIRMED FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONVERSATION WITH NOTE JANUARY 17.

2. CONSUL EARLY ON 17TH ALSO OUTLINED PROBLEM TO ATTORNEY GENERAL DOURADO. BOTH HE AND MINISTER OF STATE MOYO DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF DETENTION OR OF ANY REASON FOR SAME, AND DOURADO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER ON BEHALF OF CONSULATE

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AND SECURE EARLY RELEASE IF POSSIBLE.

3. CONSULATE HAS ASCERTAINED THAT ZANZIBAR SECURITY, NOT POLICE, PICKED UP BHALLOO. CONSULATE ALSO LEARNED TODAY THAT BHALLOO'S FATHER, WHO ARRIVED ON VISIT HERE YESTERDAY FROM DAR ES SALAAM, LEARNED OF DETENTION, AND LAST EVENING WENT TO HOUSE OF SECURITY CHIEF IBRAHIM MAKUNGU TO INQUIRE. MAKUNGU AT FIRST PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF MATTER, SUMMONED DEPUTY, AND FINALLY TOLD BHALLOO'S FATHER THAT HIS SON WAS INDEED IN HANDS OF SECURITY. MAKUNGU ALLUDED TO SUSPICION OF AMERICAN ACTIVITIES AND, ALTHOUGH VERSION OF ACCOUNT WE RECEIVED THIRD-HAND WAS RATHER UNCLEAR HIS SUSPICION APPARENTLY LINKED TO PRESS REPORT OF SMUGGLING OF ZANZIBAR CLOVES IN INDONESIA (REFTEL).

4. DOURADO HAS EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM THAT BHALLOO WILL BE RELEASED SOON. UNLESS CONSULATE IS PRESENTED WITH REALLY SOLID JUSTIFICATION FOR DETENTION, I INTEND PURSUE MATTER UNTIL HE IS. WHILE I CANNOT REFER TO CONVERSATION SUMMARIZED IN PARA 3 WITHOUT IMPLICATING BHALLOO'S FATHER, WILL INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT LOCAL CONCERN OVER CLOVE SMUGGLING EPISODE (REAL OR FEIGNED) MAY BE RELATED TO BHALLOO'S DETENTION. THERE HAVE BEEN NO GOZ INQUIRIES OR REPRESENTATIONS ON MATTER, AND I HAD ASSUMED THAT ZANZIBARIS HAD SATISFIED THEMSELVES THROUGH THEIR OWN CHANNELS THAT CONSULATE NO SIN ANY WAY INVOLVED. IF IT APPEARS THEY BELIEVE OTHERWISE, BELIEVE I SHOULD SEEK EARLY OCCASION TO MEET WITH FIRST VP JUMBE OR WITH MOYO AND, DRAWING ON REFTEL, SET SMUGGLING MATTER STRAIGHT.

5. NOTE ON ATMOSPHERICS: ZANZIBAR CURRENTLY GEARED UP FOR 5TH MEETING OF PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH CONGRESS HOSTED BY ASP AND TANU YOUTH LEAGUES. THIS HAS PRODUCED ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH LOCAL RADICAL ELEMENTS, INCLUDING HIGH SECURITY OFFICIALS, MAY HAVE FELT IT TIMELY TO TAKE SYMBOLIC SLAP AT AMERICANS.

6. WILL ADVISE FURTHER OF DEVELOPMENTS.
MACFARLANE

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